



## City of Cincinnati

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### NEP is #1 in USA

#### *City's community program wins national competition*

Cincinnati, Ohio – On Saturday, May 24, 2008, the Cincinnati Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) received the prestigious honor of winning the national 2008 Program of the Year at the Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) Annual Conference. Through focused, integrated and concentrated city service delivery and community redevelopment efforts, the NEP program seeks to improve the quality of life in a targeted area of a neighborhood. The city initiated program, which has been successfully deployed in the Cincinnati neighborhoods of Price Hill, Avondale, Northside, and CUF (Clifton Heights/University Heights/Fairview), won the award specifically for efforts in the community of Northside.

Held this year in Hampton, VA, the NUSA awards recognize outstanding neighborhood organizations, government entities and businesses from across the United States for their work in improving the quality of life in their communities. The City of Cincinnati entered the Neighborhood Enhancement Program in the category of *Best Neighborhood Program by a Local Government in the area of Physical Revitalization*. Other competitors included jurisdictions in California, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Louisiana. Neighborhoods, USA is the largest non-profit grassroots organization committed to building and strengthening neighborhood organizations, and it facilitates partnerships between neighborhood organizations, government and the private sector.

"This award reinforces the great work we are doing locally, the positive attention we are receiving nationally, and is a tremendous accolade for our efforts to maximize delivery of targeted city services through community partnerships," said Milton Dohoney, Jr., City Manager.

The Cincinnati NEP is a 90-day "blitz" designed to jumpstart longer-term neighborhood revitalization and reinvestment and to build on the community initiatives already in place. The targeted area is identified through an analysis of building code violations, vacant buildings, disorder and drug calls for Police service and drug arrests, as well as incidence of graffiti, junk autos, litter and weeds.

Integrated services delivery includes: Concentrating building code enforcement; Identifying and 'cooling down' crime hot spots; Cleaning up streets, sidewalks, and vacant lots; Beautifying landscapes, streetscapes and public right of way; Engaging property owners and residents to create and sustain a more livable neighborhood, after the first 90 days.

The Enhancement Program is currently in Westwood with plans to go to Evanston later this year.

Tim Jeckering, President of the Northside Community Council, said, "This award is an excellent boost to the continuing efforts in the Northside community. While the 90 days ended in November 2007, ongoing enhancement efforts can be seen throughout the neighborhood and it is truly having a ripple effect."

In December 2007, U.S. Bank generously donated \$9,000 to the NEP efforts, targeting \$3,000 each to the three 2008 neighborhoods of CUF, Westwood, and Evanston. Third Federal Savings matched this \$3,000 donation for CUF. If you wish to make a contribution to the NEP, please go to any US Bank branch.

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